

December 28, 2012

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Michigan Supreme Court will not hear former Highland Park emergency manager's appeal

"The Michigan Supreme Court declined Wednesday to hear an appeal by former Highland Park emergency manager Arthur Blackwell II, letting embezzlement charges against him stand. Blackwell was found guilty in June 2011 of improperly paying himself about \$264,000 in 2008 after he had agreed to run the city for \$1 a year."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: Former Highland Park EM will stand trial on embezzlement charges

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Embezzlement charges stand against emergency financial manager who paid himself \$246,000

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Embezzlement charges against Art Blackwell will stand

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Inmate loses appeal over shift in Granholm's parole decision

"The Michigan appeals court says it has no authority to intervene in the judgment of then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who agreed to change a prisoner's no-parole sentence but then changed her mind before leaving office in 2010. The court said Friday it must respect the 'clear and exclusive constitutional power' granted to Michigan governors in commutation matters."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Inmate loses appeal over shift in parole decision

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Court: Ex-Ferguson worker should get \$400K more in pistol-whipping case

"A former employee of Detroit contractor Bobby Ferguson is entitled to more money for the pain, suffering and future medical expenses for permanent injuries sustained in a pistol-whipping inflicted by Ferguson. In a ruling released Friday, the state Court of Appeals said former Ferguson worker Kennedy Thomas is entitled to at least \$400,000 more as a result of miscalculations of a civil jury and the error of a trial judge."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Appeals court upholds Bobby Ferguson's liability in 2004 pistol-whipping

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: New emergency manager law signed, but opponents already talking about legal challenge

"The new emergency manager law that Gov. Rick Snyder signed Thursday will withstand a legal challenge as long as it's 'significantly different' from the law voters repealed Nov. 6, according to an expert on the state constitution.... It appears likely the courts, and possibly the Michigan Supreme Court, will decide that question."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: New EM law could be used to appoint a financial czar in Detroit

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: Michigan has new emergency manager law weeks after voters rejected PA 4

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Slip-and-fall cases tough to make in Michigan courts

"Francisco Garces stopped at a grocery store in western Michigan but left with injuries after falling in the icy parking lot. When he sued, he didn't get sympathy from the state Appeals Court. The judges said he could have shopped elsewhere. Slip-and-fall lawsuits, once a staple for injury attorneys, have become extremely difficult in Michigan courts, especially after another strict standard was set last summer by the state Supreme Court."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily Tribune, the Macomb Daily, the Morning Sun and the Traverse City Record-Eagle.

Detroit Free Press: Unemployment benefits for fired assistant state attorney general stand, judge says

"[Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield] will not reconsider a decision that granted unemployment benefits to an assistant state attorney general who was fired after his online attacks on a gay student body president at the University of Michigan."

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: News Briefs: Michigan Supreme Court rejects two Livingston County residents' appeals

"The Michigan Supreme Court this week rejected appeals by [Brighton resident Coty Lee McCauley who was] convicted on weapons charges and [Hartland Township resident Debra Ann Gladish who was] convicted of breaking into an area home."

[Full story](#)

Detroit Legal News: Holiday Hours

"... The Michigan Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, and the State Court Administrative Office will be closed for the holidays Monday, Dec. 31; and Tuesday, Jan. 1, 2013."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Supreme Court, Court of Appeals Announce Holiday Schedule

[Press release](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Brown Bag series moves to Eastpointe

"The courtroom of 38th District Court Judge Carl F. Gerds III was the site of the most recent Brown Bag lunch series event sponsored by the Macomb County Bar Association's Young Lawyers Section."

[Full story](#)

Macomb County Legal News: Oakland County jurist related to record-setter

"Oakland County Probate Judge Elizabeth Pezzetti and her husband, Tom, gained a bit of family fame this summer, marking their golden wedding anniversary. It was a milestone, for sure. But 50 years of marriage somewhat pales in comparison to an even more noteworthy family occurrence this year for the distinguished Oakland County jurist."

[Full story](#)

The Morning Sun: Specialized Detroit court helps out troubled vets

"... Luckily for [Jason] Daniels, a father of four adult children and one young child, Detroit's Veterans Court was there to help. The specialized 36th District Court program aims to rehabilitate vets accused of nonviolent crimes, especially those with alcohol and drug problems. Instead of jailing them, the court works at getting them help."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Times Herald/Port Huron.

MLive.com: 2013 Michiganders to Watch: John Targowski, attorney and expert in medical marijuana law

"... [John] Targowski is waiting on the Michigan Supreme Court's decision on patient-to-patient sales of medical marijuana in the case of the State of Michigan v. Brandon McQueen, whose implications he said 'are going to radically redefine the retail environment of medical marijuana.' "

[Full story](#)

The Times Herald/Port Huron: Past time for Worth to pay up

The editorial states "Here's a New Year's resolution Worth Township officials ought to embrace: They should make 2013 the year the township finally faces up to its responsibility.... A Michigan Court of Appeals decision this month made that clear. In its Dec. 11 opinion, the court ruled requiring Worth to pay for a remedy wouldn't violate the state constitution's Headlee Amendment, an argument the township hoped would have won the day."

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Grand Traverse County's first female judge is sworn in; Melanie Stanton 'excited' to be Grand Traverse County's first woman judge

"A woman will wield a gavel and wear judicial robes for the first time in Grand Traverse County's history. 'It is historic. It is overwhelming. It is a privilege. It is humbling,' newly elected Probate Court Judge Melanie Stanton said before a swearing-in ceremony on Thursday.... Stanton will replace two-term Probate Judge David Stowe, who did not seek re-election after a series of personal and professional problems."

[Full story](#)

WOOD-TV(8)/Grand Rapids: Cursing woman released from jail; LaRue Ford in Berrien County Jail for swearing

"Hours after a circuit court judge ordered the bond for a woman jailed for swearing reduced to the \$500 she already paid, LaRue Ford walked out of the Berrien County Jail. The ACLU filed an emergency appeal to get Ford released from the jail, where she's been since Dec. 18 for cursing in the court clerk's office."

[Full story](#)